

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)                      An information playback apparatus comprising:  
data playback means for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data in response to a request from later-stage processing, said request including a condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time;  
bit error correction means for correcting a bit error generated in said playback data; and  
a buffer memory for temporarily storing data output by said error correction means and outputting stored data to later-stage processing,  
wherein, during the predetermined period of time, the error correction means performs retry processing to correct a bit error when said error correction means detects a bit error difficult to correct, and  
wherein, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, the error correction means substitutes recognizable dummy data for said playback data output to said later-stage processing when said error correction means detects a bit error difficult to correct.

2. (Original)                      The information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein recognizable dummy data used as a substitute for said playback data containing a bit error difficult to correct is output to said later-stage processing in case said playback data is detected by said error correction means by executing the steps of:

storing said dummy data in said buffer memory on the basis of a result of error correction processing carried out by said error correction means; and

sequentially outputting data stored in said buffer memory in accordance with a predetermined order.

3. (Previously Presented)                      The information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when retry processing carried out makes it possible to output playback data corresponding to said dummy data in accordance with said limitation, said retry processing is carried out to reproduce said playback data corresponding to said dummy data and said playback data is output in place of said dummy data.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original)                      The information playback apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said limitation requested by said later-stage processing is a request for a transfer of data stored in said buffer memory and said request is made by an external apparatus after a command specifying an operation to play back said data.

6. (Currently Amended)                      An information playback apparatus comprising:  
data playback means for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data in response to a request from later-stage processing, said request including a condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time; and

a buffer memory for temporarily storing said playback data to be output to later-stage processing,

wherein, during the predetermined period of time, alternative processing is performed to access playback data recorded in a defective sector, and

wherein, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, recognizable dummy is substituted for said playback data recorded in the defective sector of said disc recording medium and output to said later-stage processing as a result of an access to said defective sector.

7. (Original)           The information playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein recognizable dummy data used as a substitute for said playback data recorded in said defective sector is output to said later-stage processing by executing the steps of:

storing said dummy data in said buffer memory as a result of an access to said defective sector; and

sequentially outputting data stored in said buffer memory in accordance with a predetermined order.

8. (Previously Presented)           The information playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when alternate processing carried out makes it possible to output playback data corresponding to said dummy data in accordance with said limitation, said alternate processing is carried out to reproduce said playback data and said playback data is output in place of said dummy data.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original)        The information playback apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said limitation requested by said later-stage processing is a request for a transfer of data stored in said buffer memory and said request is made by an external apparatus after a command specifying an operation to play back said data.

11. (Currently Amended)        An information playback method for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, said information playback method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for playback data, said request including a condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time;

correcting a bit error generated in said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium during the predetermined period of time;

temporarily storing data with said error corrected in a buffer memory; and

outputting said data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing;

wherein, during the predetermined period of time, the error correction means performs retry processing to correct the bit error, and

~~outputting~~ wherein, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, recognizable dummy data for said playback data to said later-stage processing when a bit error difficult to correct is detected in said step of correcting a bit error generated in said playback data.

12. (Previously Presented)            An information playback method for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, said information playback method comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium in a buffer memory in response to receiving a request for playback data, said request including a condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time;

outputting said playback data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing; performing, during the predetermined period of time, alternative processing to access playback data recorded in a defective sector, and

substituting, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, recognizable dummy data for said playback data to said later-stage processing as a result of an access to a defective sector of the disc recording medium.

13. (Previously Presented)            A computer-readable medium storing a computer program to perform an information playback method for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for playback data, said request including a condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time;

correcting a bit error generated in said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium during the predetermined period of time;

temporarily storing data with said error corrected in a buffer memory; and  
outputting said data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing; and

wherein, during the predetermined period of time, the error correction means performs  
retry processing to correct the bit error, and

~~outputting wherein~~, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, recognizable  
dummy data for said playback data to said later-stage processing when a bit error difficult to  
correct is detected in said step of correcting a bit error generated in said playback data.

14. (Previously Presented)           A computer-readable medium storing a computer  
program to perform an information playback method for playing back data from a disc recording  
medium and outputting playback data, the method comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium in a  
buffer memory in response to receiving a request for playback data, said request including a  
condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time;

outputting said playback data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing;  
performing, during the predetermined period of time, alternative processing to access  
playback data recorded in a defective sector, and

substituting, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, recognizable dummy  
data for said playback data to said later-stage processing as a result of an access to a defective  
sector of the disc recording medium.